THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Talks with Nepalese Prime Minister

4647. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the talks held between the Nepalese Prime Minister and the Indian leaders during his recent visit to India;

(b) whether some agreements have been reached between the two countries during the visit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c). During the visit of the Prime Minister G.P. Koirala of Nepal to India from December 5-10, 1991, extensive and productive discussions were held on a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

This visit was preceded by the meeting of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission, Chaired by me and the Nepalese Co-Chairman, Shri Maheshwar Prasad Singh, on December 4 and 5, 1991. The report of the Joint Commission was a major input for the talks between the two Prime Ministers and their delegations.

A number of Treaties and Agreements - an Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, an Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit, an Agreement for Cooperation in Controlling Unauthorised Trade, a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation - were signed during the visit.

The Trade Treaty contains several new facilities and concessions meant to promote Nepalese exports to India, and the new Transit Treaty has considerably simplified customs and other procedures. Both sides have committed themselves to cooperating fully to control the growing scourge of smuggling which seriously affects the Indian economy.

A number of key decisions were also taken concerning various hydel projects and other aspects of cooperation in water resources development, the sector with the maximum potential for substantially benefitting both the countries. Special attention was paid to promoting Indo-Nepal joint ventures - including a particularly favourable access regime to the Indian market for the products of approved joint ventures - with a view to assisting the industrial development of Nepal.

A number of new Indian aid projects were also identified, in the fields of public health, communications and telecommunications. Concrete steps were identified for promoting cooperation in civil aviation and tourism.

Both Governments have thus prepared the ground for ushering in a new era in mutually beneficial bilaterial cooperation.

[*English*]

Indo-Nepal Talks on Multi-Purpose Projects

4648. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: